

Welcome to the
Setauket Presbyterian Church
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



First Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2017

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The Setauket Presbyterian Church

Order of Worship
I Lent, March 5, 2017

LOVE GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART

GATHERING MUSIC

We use this time to make the transition between “getting here” and “being here”.

Take these few minutes to find the still, deep places within you, where God’s Spirit dwells.

Relax the body; quiet the mind. Focus on breathing, feeling, being. Be mindful of your center—your reservoir of inner peace, strength, love. Be aware of being together in silence with others. Feel the spirit of the community.

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT: Light Enters *Listen, God Is Calling*

Neno Lake Mungu

CALL TO WORSHIP *we put away the “Alleluias” for Lent, and then ask the Spirit to come among us by singing...*

* HYMN 407 *Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION and PRAYER

Loving God, you believed in us before we were born.

You put us in families to learn how to get along with people,
and you give us your whole world to care for.

Help us to trust you in return.

Help us to pay attention when your Spirit speaks.

Help us to say what you want us to say, and do what you want us to do.

Teach us real freedom.

Help us to learn and grow together so that we become like your dear Son,
our brother, Jesus Christ our Lord.

May our hearts beat with your heart,

sing with your song,

love with your love,

through the faith of Jesus, in whose strong name we pray...

the spoken prayer leads us into a period of silent prayer, which comes to a close with:

SUNG SUPPLICATION no. 603

Paul Vasile

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy, have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us, O grant us your peace.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

LOVE GOD WITH ALL OUR MIND

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hymn 469

Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your Spirit in this place—

Lord, listen to your children praying: send us love; send us power; send us grace...

SERMON IN DRAMA: A Very Reasonable Man Matthew 4:1-11

from the Iona Community

adapted from *Stages on the Way*, from the Iona Community Wild Goose Resources Group

Jesus:

The Devil:

Interpreter:

Narrator: the Congregation

throughout this re-enactment of the Temptations, we'll be singing

Hymn no. 735, *I Need Thee Every Hour*

This is a version of the Temptation story; essentially, a reflection has been added after each of the Devil's invitations to Jesus, and the whole script then divided into four voices: Jesus, the Devil, an Interpreter, and the Narrator. Jesus' words should be read as clearly and simply as possible, with no attempt to add "meaning." The Devil should look and sound something like the stereotype of a used car salesperson. At the end, he/she should change clothes in some way; if a member of the choir is playing the Devil, the change can simply be taking off the choir robe so she/he appears in ordinary clothes in the last segment. The Interpreter is a kind of narrator, a message-bearer, so to speak, and the congregation plays the role of the Narrator, who describes the scenes and the action.

Few props are needed: the communion table with some largish stones upon it, a dossier file (e.g., a choir folder) for the Devil, in which he/she can carry his/her script and refer to it for Scriptural quotations in an ostentatious way.

The Devil speaks from three positions—the table, the pulpit, and a position near a window that opens, or a door to the outside, from which he/she can see the world.

A suitable chant or hymn should be hummed, sung, or played while the Devil moves, to give space for reflection on each vignette (we are using #735, I Need Thee Every Hour).

Scene 1

Congregation: **It happened, that after Jesus rose from the waters of Baptism, still filled with the Holy Spirit; he was led, by the Spirit, into the desert. There he remained for forty days and forty nights, during which time he ate nothing, but was put to the test by the Devil.**

Jesus takes his/her place beneath the Word (the pulpit Bible)

HYMN #735, choir humming (congregation seated)

I Need Thee Every Hour

while the choir is humming, the Devil enters and surveys the room...

Interpreter: Now, the Devil knew the ways, and the will, of God, intimately. He had been long used to alluring people by the subtlest of means.

The Devil was also a very *compassionate* man. He recognized hunger when he saw it, and showed concern and compassion for a hungry man:

The Devil: Jesus, you're hungry. And you're the Son of God. It isn't right that you—especially you!—who are so dear to God, should be hungry.

Look, here are some stones. They could be loaves of bread. You could change them with a word.

Go on—it couldn't hurt, just this once—go on, change them.

Congregation: **But Jesus answered,**

Jesus: The Scripture says, "A person cannot live by bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks."

HYMN #735, first verse (congregation seated)

I Need Thee Every Hour

during the singing, the Devil takes Jesus to the pulpit...

Scene 2

Congregation: **The Devil then took Jesus to Jerusalem, the Holy City. He brought him to the Temple and set him on its highest point.**

Interpreter: Now the Devil was a very *knowledgeable* man. He knew the Scriptures. He could quote them to show his familiarity with God. So he said,

Devil: Jesus, you are the Son of God, and this is God's Holy Place.

Look, below, there are those who wait to believe, who want to believe, but who need a sign to convince them.

So why not—seeing as you are the Son of God—why not fling yourself from the top of the Temple? It'll be all right—remember what the Scripture says...

(Consults file)

Psalms 91, verses 11 and 12, to be precise, "God will give orders to his angels about you; they will hold you up with their hands, so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones."

Congregation: **Jesus answered,**

Jesus: The Scripture also says, "Do not put the LORD your God to the test."

HYMN #735, second verse (congregation seated)

I Need Thee Every Hour

During the singing, the Devil takes Jesus to one of the windows in the balcony.

Scene 3

Congregation: Then the Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness.

Interpreter: Now the Devil was a very *reasonable* man. He realized the grasp he had over people worldwide. He realized also how God wanted all creation to know Jesus as Lord, and how Jesus wanted to bring all creation back to God. So he offered Jesus a contract:

Devil: Jesus, oh, my friend, Jesus, all that I have, I want to give to you. All that you desire could be, *should* be, yours.

Just bend your knee a little, that's it, just treat me with respect, just humor me and worship me a little.

Jesus: Go away, Satan. The Scripture says, "Worship the LORD your God, and serve only God."

HYMN #735 third verse (congregation seated)

I Need Thee Every Hour

During the singing, the Devil comes down the back stairs and, while out of sight, changes into ordinary clothes.

Scene 4

Congregation: Jesus was left alone, and angels came to help him.

Choir members embrace Jesus.

The Devil re-enters on the main floor, looking around at people in a friendly way as he/she walks around the room

Interpreter: The Devil went elsewhere, to walk the earth as a very compassionate, knowledgeable, reasonable man.

And still, the Prince of Hell and Master of Disguises
Appears incognito, as an angel of light.

The Devil strolls out, humming or whistling the refrain, "I need thee, O I need thee...."

Silent Reflection

After a time, the melody

HYMN #735 fourth verse (congregation seated)

I Need Thee Every Hour

LOVE GOD WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Teach Me, O Lord*

Thomas Attwood

Please sign the Friendship Roster found at the end of the pew, noting the name of fellow worshippers when it is returned.

* **DOXOLOGY** no. 606 (alt)

Communion elders take their places as the offering is brought forward

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Merciful God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our trust in you. You alone know our hearts, and you more than any human being love us. May this act of giving draw us closer to you, and spread a table of bounty before all who come closer to you through our sharing, in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER *God's offering to God's people*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, WITH INTERCESSIONS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Thanksgiving, until these words:

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

HYMN 552 *(remain seated)*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord:
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest...*

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP *Please hold the elements until all have been served.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *from Psalm 103*

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

And forget not all God's benefits.

God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your holy child Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Christ, and pledge ourselves to serve Christ in our neighbor for we pray in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.

* **HYMN 658/659** *God Is So Good/Mungu ni mvema*

* **BENEDICTION**

The benediction of the God of Sarah, Hagar and Abraham,
The benediction of the Son, who was born of Mary,
The benediction of the Holy Spirit of love,
Who watches over us like a mother for her children,
Descend upon us all. Amen.

*In communion with the members of our sister church in San Antonio de los Baños in Cuba,
we share this benediction on the first Sunday of each month.*

CHORAL RESPONSE *Cuban Benediction*

arr. Mark Orton

MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH

please rise in body or in spirit; **unison prayers are in bold.*

Large print bulletins, Bibles, hymnals and listening devices are available; please ask a Deacon.

OURS IS AN OPEN COMMUNION. All Christians are encouraged to join in celebrating the Lord's Supper today. This includes children whose parents deem it appropriate and who have instructed their children about the meaning of Communion. For greater inclusivity, all the bread being served is gluten free, and all wine is unfermented grape juice.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 12

- 9:00 Knitting at 9 in the Parlor
- 9:30 Worship Service with the Rev. Mary Speers preaching; Installation of New Officers;
Childcare (ages 1 - 3);
- 9:45 Church School (Preschool through 6th Grade); Middle School Program (7th-8th Grade)
- 11:00 Children's Choir in the Choir Room
- 11:00 Adult Education Class in the Parlor